

Department of Distance Education
ORIENTATION RESIDENT COURSE (ORC)
Class of 2013

1. INTRODUCTION: The U.S. Army War College Department of Distance Education resident orientation is an opportunity for new students to become familiar with essential DDE enabling technologies, the USAWC scholarly writing standards and the fundamentals of strategic thinking as they begin the two year online Senior Service College program. The two day weekend orientation (Friday/Saturday) introduces students to online methods and tools of learning, internet collaboration tools, graduate level writing skills and critical thinking techniques. Early familiarity with these methods, software applications and skills significantly enhances the student's ability to successfully begin the two-year U.S. Army War College Distance Education curriculum. Additionally, faculty will review DDE course requirements and articulate evaluation standards. Additionally, students are able to meet and develop a rapport with fellow students and supporting faculty.

2. COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Eliminate technology as a barrier to DDE learning
- Familiarize students with AWC facilities/faculty and resources
- Introduce key strategic thinking concepts and adult learning model

3. ORGANIZATION:

a. Day One of the orientation program is structured with five sessions; four training classes; three of which are information technology oriented, one dedicated to USAWC graduate level writing techniques and one administrative period. The day ends with a faculty/staff/student welcome social. The training and support opportunities are described as follows:

Defense Connect Online (DCO) Familiarization – This 45 minute session is designed to introduce/review the DCO as an enabling technology for DDE course participation.

- 1) Explain how DDE will be utilizing DCO in the online curriculum and how it will benefit students
- 2) Demonstrate how to create a meeting room (helpful for all, particularly for future student hosts)
- 3) Identify, describe, and then demonstrate the functionality of the six different meeting "Pods"
- 4) Walk through audio and camera setup
- 5) Identify, and describe the default layouts
- 6) Demonstrate how to upload/download files, utilize white board, and share monitor

USAWC Online Academic Student Information System (OASIS) Familiarization – This 45 minute classroom session is designed to familiarize you with the essential software applications required to effectively participate in the DDE program of instruction. It is essentially a "Tips and Tricks" for use of OASIS and will consist principally of familiarization with the OASIS learning management system. The OASIS online tutorial will be the basis of instruction augmented with USAWC staff insights based on student feedback. The instruction will cover the essential features of OASIS to include:

- 1) Completing key Student "Tasks"
- 2) Participating in online "Forums"
- 3) Updating essential student data via "Self Service"

Department of Distance Education
ORIENTATION RESIDENT COURSE (ORC)

Class of 2013

Information Technology Assistance (ITA) – This 45 minute time period is designed to resolve any outstanding AWC connectivity issues and assist you to accomplish the minimum essential baseline actions with one laptop computer. As DoD regulations preclude government technicians from working on civilian owned computer systems, you will assess and verify laptop hardware/software for compatibility/suitability for the DDE program of instruction by:

- 1) Verifying access to the DDE student web site – (add to favorites).
- 2) Ensuring your laptop can access courseware
- 3) Ensuring your laptop has proper certificates installed
- 4) Configuring Internet Explorer, if necessary, to work with courseware
- 5) Ensuring adobe flash player is installed and tested
- 6) Ensuring the QuickTime player is installed and tested
- 7) Ensuring Windows Media Player is installed and tested
- 8) Ensuring Adobe pdf reader is installed and tested
- 9) Biographical Data Information Entry (time permitting)
- 10) Introduce the student hosting option for DE2301, DE2302, and DE2303

AWC Graduate Level Writing Seminar – This 2.5 hour seminar is designed to review essential AWC required executive writing and analytical skills. Topics to be discussed include crafting an effective argument, function of an introduction, purpose of an effective conclusion, documentation, and proofing techniques. Unique attributes of the USAWC writing are discussed, common student errors identified, and examples of appropriate written documents are examined.

Administrative period – An administrative period is included for students to request and be issued U.S. Army software if required, take student biography photographs, and visit USAWC alumni association store as time permits. This period is also an opportunity to seek additional assistance beyond what the schedule permits. Priority of accomplishment is as follows:

- 1) DE2301 Book Issue
- 2) Microsoft Office 2007 Issue
- 3) Bio Book Photo
- 4) Biographical Data Information Entry

b. Day Two of the orientation program is structured as a blend of Bliss Hall lectures and seminar discussion which gives students their first encounter of the “AWC seminar experience” where students interact, network, and begin to form the lifelong bonds as colleagues. Students (and designated faculty instructor) are assigned to one of 16 seminars, which are intended to remain together for most of the first year of study. After being formally welcomed by the AWC leadership, lectures about the DE curriculum, AWC themes (i.e., golden threads), and an introduction to critical thinking are addressed followed by seminar discussion. An alumni panel discussion and Q&A session end the day’s instruction.